



2 March 2001

**MEMORANDUM FOR ALL POTENTIAL OFFERORS**

**FROM: NPOESS IPO**  
E/IP - Centre Bldg., Suite 1450  
8455 Colesville Rd.  
Silver Spring MD 20910

**SUBJECT: Executive Summary – Call for Improvements (CFI) for the Conical  
Microwave Imager Sounder (CMIS), F04701-01-R-0500**

1. The NPOESS Integrated Program Office invites your company to submit a proposal for the CMIS down-selection. The primary objective of the CMIS sensor is to collect microwave radiometry and sounding data. The CMIS sensor will support the operational needs of the Department of Defense, NOAA's National Weather Service, and other Government and civil users. The period of performance for this acquisition is from contract award through 30 June 2012, if all options are exercised.
2. This is a competitive source selection which will be conducted in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 15.3 and Air Force FAR Supplement (AFFARS) Subpart 5315 using Agency-level procedures. The Government intends to award one contract in response to this solicitation. Additionally, the Government intends to award without discussion. Therefore, each offeror's initial proposal should contain the offeror's best terms from a cost or price and technical standpoint.
3. If discussions are required, the Government intends to provide each offeror with an competitive range briefing on the results of the Government's initial evaluation and another briefing before requesting Final Proposal Revisions. The purpose of the briefings is to provide the offeror with a clear understanding of the Government's evaluation at that point in time.
4. The Source Selection Authority (SSA) will make contract award to the offeror whose proposal, based on an integrated assessment, best meets the solicitation requirements, the FAR responsibility requirements, and is otherwise eligible for award. The Government seeks to award a contract to the offeror which gives the Air Force the greatest confidence that it will best meet or exceed the requirements affordably. This may result in a contract award to an offeror which has submitted a higher rated, higher priced proposal, where the decision is consistent with the evaluation factors, and the SSA reasonably determines, considering the Government's estimate of probable cost, that the technical superiority, and/or overall business approach of the offeror's proposal, and/or superior past performance of the offeror which has submitted a higher priced



offer, outweighs the cost difference. The Government also reserves the right not to award any contract.

5. Cost-Plus-Award-Fee CLINs shall have an award fee maximum of 15% of the proposed estimated cost and apply to the contractor's effort through CDR, the protoqual unit, protoqual testing, and the second flight unit. Cost-Plus-Fixed-Fee CLINs shall apply to the contractor's performance of special studies and transition to EMD. Cost-Reimbursement shall apply to the supporting Other Direct Cost line item. Fixed-Price-Incentive (Successive Targets) shall apply to the contractor's production of the third through sixth flight units and associated advance procurement line items.

6. Concurrent with the release of this solicitation, the Departments of Commerce, Defense, and NASA will be advised that a source selection is in progress for the CMIS effort, and that contact with offerors on the subject of the solicitation is not permitted during the source selection. Offerors are strongly advised not to attempt any such contacts before contract award, with the limited exception of contact with the Contracting Officer or the Acquisition Ombudsman, as appropriate.

7. This solicitation is the second and final phase in a progressive down-selection to make an award to a single offeror to develop and fabricate the CMIS sensor. Because this down-selection is being conducted as a full and open competition, offers from non-incumbent contractors will be accepted. Any such offers must comply fully with the terms and conditions of the solicitation. New offerors also must submit proposals reflecting a Preliminary Design Review level of development and associated preliminary design review documentation (contact the Contracting Officer for details).

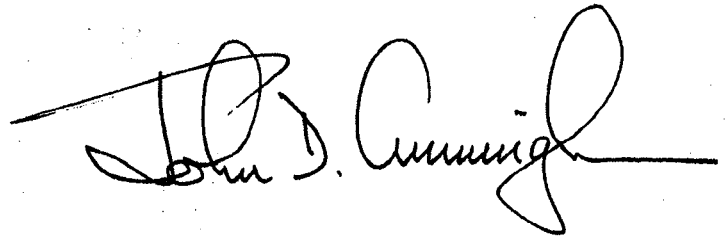
8. It is important to highlight two of the mandatory elements for any proposal. Any proposal that does not provide performance on Category IA environmental data records at a threshold level (as defined in the attached Sensor Requirements Document and Section M of the CFI) will be considered unawardable. Secondly, offerors shall propose how they plan to utilize advance procurement in accordance with the budget estimate profile defined in Section L. Advance procurement shall be addressed at a minimum in the CLIN prices in Section B, the proposal's cost volume, and the list of advance procurement items.

9. Proposals are due on 2 April 2001, no later than 1700 local time, in accordance with Section L of the solicitation. However, proposal Volume IV, Relevant Past/Present Performance, should be submitted by 19 March 2001, and arrive at the NPOESS Source Selection Facility by 1700 local time.

10. With the release of the CFI, the Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO), Mr. Robert Graham, SMC/CIKN, is the primary point of contact for this acquisition. Mr. Graham may be reached at (310) 336-4539, or via e-mail at [robertg.graham@losangeles.af.mil](mailto:robertg.graham@losangeles.af.mil).

11. You are encouraged to communicate any questions concerning this acquisition to the Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO). In addition, an Ombudsman has been established for this acquisition. The purpose of the Ombudsman is to receive and communicate concerns from potential Offerors when an Offeror prefers not to use established channels to communicate its concern during the proposal development phase of this competition. The Ombudsman will communicate offeror issues, disagreements and recommendations for resolution on this acquisition through the proper channels. The Ombudsman's role is not to diminish the authority of the System Program Director or PCO, but to advocate an offeror's concerns on a non-attribution basis. The Ombudsman will maintain strict confidentiality as to the source of the concern when requested by the Offeror. The Ombudsman will not participate in the evaluation of the proposals or the source selection decision process for this acquisition. The Ombudsman for this acquisition is Mr. William Orzech, SMC/PKC, at (310) 363-0588.

12. Submit all questions in writing concerning this acquisition to the Contracting Officer at the address in the solicitation, Block 7 of the SF33.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Cunningham", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM  
System Program Director  
Integrated Program Office

Attachment:  
F04701-01-R-0500

cc: SMC/PK  
SMC/CIK  
IPO (Data Mgr.)